



#12  
Reconsideration  
4-10-02  
H.P.L.  
PATENT  
99146

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Hook, J.  
Group Art Unit 3752

In re application of:  
Schempf et al.

Serial No. 09/547,281

Filed: April 12, 2000

Title:  
PIPE INSPECTION AND  
REPAIR SYSTEM

RECEIVED  
APR - 3 2002  
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222  
March 25, 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 25, 2002 on the application captioned above, applicants elect the species represented by claims 1 and 12, wherein the tooling module of claim 1 is further defined in claim 12 to be a sensor module connected to the base module and a brush module connected to the sensor module. Claims 14-18 depend from claim 12 and claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18. Claims 14-17 add additional elements, e.g., an additional flexible joint, a locomotor module, a centralizer, and a camera in the brush module. Claim 18 states that the brush module includes a brush assembly, including a brush wheel, and claims 19 and 20 add further detail concerning the brush wheel and the brush assembly, respectively. The embodiment of the invention defined in claim 12 is best shown in Figure 2F and includes a base module, a sensor and a brush joined by at least one flexible joint. The base module is shown alone in Figures 12-15. The brush module alone is shown from different views and in varying levels of detail in Figures 25, 26, 27, 28 and 28A-H. The sensor with a centralizer attached is shown in Figure 30C (*see* claim 16). The flexible joint alone is shown in Figure 29.

Other claims that include a sensor and brush module together with other elements not

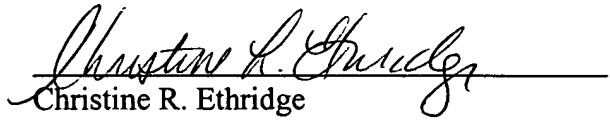
elected here include claims 67, 68, 69, 70, 38, 28, 29, 30, 31, 71, 72, 46 and 47.

In the Office Action of October 2, 2001, the Examiner imposed a requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits. The Examiner had determined that the species disclosed in Figures 1, 5A&B, 5E&F, 12, 15/16, 21, 25, 28A, 29, 30AE, 30C, 30K, 30R, 30X, and 43 were distinct and that there was no generic claim. In response to the restriction requirement, applicants amended the claims to provide a generic claim, claim 1, for the various embodiments of the invention. From the list of Figures provided by the Examiner, applicants elected the species of Fig. 12, which shows an embodiment of the base module and identified claims that included a base module. No claim, however, included only a base module. With few exceptions, the same is true of the other figures listed by the Examiner.

In the Office Action mailed February 25, 2002, and in a telephone conversation with the undersigned, the Examiner indicated that, in view of the amendments, the election and identification of claims were not fully responsive. Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect the species of the multi-module pipe inspection wherein the tooling module is a sensor module connected to the base module, and further comprising a brush module connected to the sensor module. Figure 2F illustrates that species. Claim 12 and the claims that depend from claim 12 represent that species and variations thereof.

Applicants have made every effort to be fully responsive to the Office Action. If the undersigned can be of assistance to the Examiner in advancing the application to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Christine R. Ethridge  
Registration No. 30,557

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP  
Henry W. Oliver Building  
535 Smithfield Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2312

Telephone: (412) 355-8619  
Facsimile: (412) 355-6501